

Joe Bustillos  
COMM201 - 10/16/1987  
Rape Story

[Given the current information and the stage of the police investigation I feel that printing this story in a newsworthy fashion jeopardizes the welfare of the victim and apprehension of the alleged criminal. Also, because the information taken is from a Wednesday A.M. police log with the story scheduled to run in Thursday's paper there is a good chance that a full arrest story can be run using information gathered from later police reports.

The only story that doesn't run the risk of jeopardizing the woman or the investigation would be something like: "Huntington Beach police officers are looking for a suspect in an early Wednesday morning rape of a 19-year-old Huntington Beach woman." It raises more questions than it answers and the inclusion of any additional information doesn't take the alleged assailant's threat, "I'll kill you if you call the cops," seriously.

Additionally, because the woman is not a public figure there is no "scoop" angle in this story. But, by waiting until the police have had a chance to make an arrest the news-worthy elements of the story such as the woman's bravery in reporting the crime, the amount of evidence that the police were able to gather and perhaps the alleged rapist's bad luck in leaving behind his wallet would definitely make this story into something

**Joe Bustillos - rape story**

worth printing.

But printing the above details before the police have had a chance to complete their investigation is rewarding the woman's bravery with an unnecessary risk. Tragic as rape is, reporting anything less than the above noted elements is not really news.]

XXX

*good job*  
*A-*

Joe Bustillos  
COMM201 - October 22, 1987  
Trial Story - Rape Follow Up

LA 22-year-old Fullerton man was convicted of the October 14<sup>th</sup> rape of a 19-year-old Huntington Beach woman by Santa Ana Superior Court Judge Sandra Lee Jordan yesterday. LThe suspect, Frank Russell told reporters, "This is a frame job. I'm innocent, the judge knows I'm innocent."

LRussell was arrested on the morning of October 15<sup>th</sup> by plainclothes officers as he attempted to return to his apartment. According to the police report, Russell's wallet was found at the victim's APARTMENT residence by Huntington Beach police on the morning of the attack. Russell had been identified by the victim as the assailant through a driver's license photograph found in the wallet, according to the report. Also found in the wallet were Russell's Social Security card and business card.

He was arraigned by Municipal Court Judge Fred Graham on the same day with a preliminary hearing set for October 16<sup>th</sup>. He was held to answer to one count of rape and one count of assault with intent to commit great bodily harm. A third count, of kidnapping, was dismissed.

LBecause he was accused of felony charges Lhe was then arraigned in Superior Court in Santa Ana on October 17<sup>th</sup> and pleaded not guilty on both counts. Bail remained \$450,000 which Russell did not post.

LRussell had waived his right to a trial before a jury so

**Joe Bustillos - October 22, 1987**

Jordan presided over the case without a jury beginning on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Russell's attorney, William Weiss, argued that the victim had "invited" Russell into her home "of her own will." Weiss ~~claimed~~ continued that the victim did not appear nervous and in fact had offered to get Russell a beer from the refrigerator.

According to the police report, the victim was not afraid when Russell showed up at her door because she recognized him from a party she had attended earlier. But then, the report ~~said~~ continues, he pushed her into the living room, told her he had a knife and pulled the telephone cord out of the wall. The victim told investigating police that Russell then ordered her to remove her clothing and asked her if she had a beer in the refrigerator. The victim offered to get the beer and tried to escape out the back door but Russell caught her and told her, "I'll kill you if you try that again." The victim said that Russell struck her on the face "three or four times with an open hand," pulled out a six inch knife and raped her on the living room couch. According to the victim, Russell told her, "I'll kill you if you call the cops."

According to the report the victim then contacted Huntington Beach police using a neighbor's phone. After officers arrived she was taken to Huntington Beach Hospital where physicians confirmed that she had been raped and took evidentiary samples from her, possibly including semen samples, and treated the

**Joe Bustillos - October 22, 1987**

injuries to her face.

The victim's attorney, M.R. Takahashi, said that the "suspect terrorized my client," causing her to "fear for her life." She has sought psychiatric treatment since the attack and has been unable to work, according to the attorney.

Jordan returned on October 19th with a verdict of guilty on the count of rape and not guilty on the assault charge.

After the verdict was read the victim left the court smiling but refused to comment to reporters. Russell was taken away by bailiffs after he stood and walked toward Jordan saying, "You'll be sorry you made this mistake."

Jordan will sentence Russell on November 17<sup>th</sup>. He faces a maximum of 14 years in prison.

X X X

**Joe Bustillos**  
**COMM201 - 10/21/1987**  
**RAPE STORY - TAKE II**

*good lead* [ Huntington Beach police are looking for a Fullerton man in connection with the early Wednesday morning rape and assault of a 19-year-old Huntington Beach woman.

[ The victim was raped at knife point and received several abrasions and minor cuts on her cheek and chin, according to the police report.

[ The victim told investigating officers W.R. Baranger and M.B. Adams that she had attended a party at a Seal Beach residence where she saw but did not meet the suspect. She said that the suspect must have followed her to her Huntington Beach apartment when she left the party shortly before midnight.

*SAY* According to the victim, the suspect knocked on her door and pushed her into the apartment's main living area when she opened the door. She said he then pulled her telephone cord out of the wall and, telling her that he had a knife, ordered her to remove her clothing. Before the victim removed her clothing she said she attempted to escape out the back door when the suspect asked her if she had a beer in her refrigerator and allowed her to go into the kitchen to get it.

The suspect caught her at the back door and said, "I'll kill you if you try that again," according to the police report. The victim said that the suspect struck her on the face "three or four times with an open hand," pulled out a six inch knife and raped her on the living room couch. According to the victim, the suspect told her, "I'll kill you if you call the cops."

JOE BUSTILLOS  
RAPE STORY - TAKE II

After the victim was sure that the suspect had left, she contacted Huntington Beach police using a neighbor's phone. After officers arrived, she was taken to Huntington Beach Hospital where physicians confirmed that she had been raped and took evidentiary samples from her, possibly including semen samples, and treated the injuries to her face, according to the police report.

The rape and assault are still under investigation.

XXX